# Sri Panchalingeshwara Temple, Vittal, near Puttur, Dakshina Kannada Dist, Karnataka

Info is given under following headings:

Location, address, phone number...etc., how to get there, greatness of this temple, history and legends connected to Pandavas staying here in exile and Bhima killing Bakasura, architecture, Main deity here and  subdeities, daily poojas and rituals and their charges, special poojas, sevas and their charges, festivals, facilities for devotees such as accommodation etc,, donation info, bank acct numbers etc.., nearby Temples, nearby places of tourist interest, nearby budget hotels, .any other info...etc.

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**AI Overview:**

The Sri Panchalingeshwara Temple in Vitla, near Puttur, Karnataka, is an ancient, architecturally unique Hindu temple known for its elephant-back shape and tiered roof, believed to have been established after Bhima slew Bakasura, with five lingas representing the Panchabhootas (elements); it's a significant spiritual site where the Pandavas reportedly stayed, attracting devotees and history enthusiasts to its serene location.

**Key Highlights:**

- **Location:** Vitla, Dakshina Kannada District, about 15 km from Puttur.
- **Deity:** Lord Shiva, with five lingams (Panchalingas) representing Earth, Water, Air, Sky, Fire.
- **Legend:** Bhima installed these five lingas after killing the demon Bakasura; the Pandavas also resided here.
- **Architecture:** Features a distinctive three-tiered roof shaped like an elephant's back, showcasing rare architectural style.
- **Festivals:** Hosts the annual 9-day Vitlaayana festival in January.
- **Timings:** Generally open from 6 AM to 1 PM and 5 PM to 8 PM.

This temple offers a blend of historical significance, mythology, and architectural beauty, making it a notable pilgrimage site in the Tulu Nadu region.

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The Sri Panchalingeshwara Temple (also known as Shree Panchalingeshwara Temple) is located in the heart of Vittal (Vitla) town, Bantwal Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka, India. It is a prominent ancient Shiva temple in this areca-growing region at the foothills of the Western Ghats.

**Address**: Sri Panchalingeshwara Temple, Vittal, Bantwal Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka - 574243.

**Phone Number**: 08255-238955.

**Email**: info@vitlapanchalingeshwara.com (or older: panchalingeshwara@gmail.com).

**Website**: http://vitlapanchalingeshwara.com/ (official site for updates).

The temple is managed by a committee headed by Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade, Dharmadhikari of Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala.

**How to Get There**

**By Road**: Vittal is well-connected via NH-73 and state highways. It is 40 km from Mangalore, 18 km from Bantwal, 14 km from Puttur, and about 300 km from Bengaluru. Frequent KSRTC and private buses run from Mangalore, Puttur, and Uppinangady. Local autos/taxis are available in town.

**By Train**: Nearest railway stations are Bantwal (18 km) or Mangalore Junction (40 km). Trains from major cities stop here; taxis/buses from station to Vittal take 30-60 minutes.

**By Air:** Mangalore International Airport (IXE) is the closest (about 50 km, 1-1.5 hours by cab).

**Best Time**: October to March (pleasant weather); avoid heavy monsoons.

**Greatness of This Temple, History and Legends Connected to Pandavas Staying here in Exile and Bhima Killing Bakasura**

This ancient temple is one of the largest and most revered in Dakshina Kannada, linked directly to the Mahabharata era. Local tradition and sthala purana identify Vittal as ancient Ekachakrapura, where the Pandavas lived incognito during their exile. The five Shiva Lingas are believed to have been consecrated by the five Pandava brothers themselves.

**The most famous legend is Bhima's slaying of Bakasura**: The demon Bakasura terrorized the region from his cave in nearby Kalenjimale forest, demanding daily food and human sacrifices.
Bhima confronted and killed him, freeing the people. Sites associated with the battle include:

The spot where Bhima vanquished Bakasura.
Netthare Kere (puddle of blood from the fight).

Chipparu (where Bakasura's head fell).
Kayyaru (where his hands were found).

A cave (Gavi) on a hillock in Kalenjimale where Bakasura lived.

Rock inscriptions and historical accounts support the Pandava connection.

The temple was the chief deity shrine of the local Domba Heggade dynasty, with renovations recorded in 1436, 1744, and 1894 CE.
It symbolizes protection, strength, and devotion, drawing devotees for blessings against obstacles.

**Architecture**

The temple showcases unique Gaja Prishta style (shaped like the back of an elephant), common in coastal Karnataka.
It features a three-tiered roof, east-facing sanctums, and intricate Hoysala-influenced carvings (credited to sculptor Ruvari Mallitamma in some accounts).
Built without a traditional pedestal, each "kuta" aligns with sunrise directions.
A beautifully carved Nandi sits at the entrance, overlooking a large temple pond used for rituals.

**Main Deity Here and Subdeities**

**Main Deity**: Panchalingeshwara – five ancient Shiva Lingas representing the five aspects of Lord Shiva:
Vamadeva
Tatpurusha
Aghora
Sadyojata
Ishana
These swayambhu (self-manifested) Lingas are enshrined in separate sanctums.

**Subdeities**: Shrines for Lord Ganesha, Goddess Parvati, Lord Subramanya (Kartikeya), and other parivara devatas within the complex.

**Daily Poojas and Rituals and Their Charges**

The temple follows traditional Shaiva rituals with multiple daily poojas (timings typically 6:00 AM–12:00 PM and 5:00 PM–8:00 PM; confirm via phone).

Common rituals include abhisheka, archana, and naivedya. Previous day's rice (from annadana) is considered auspicious prasadam here.

Charges are nominal (as of recent data; subject to change – book at counter):

Archana: Rs. 20–50.
Abhisheka (basic): Rs. 100–300.
Naivedya/offerings: Rs. 50+.

Free darshan available; priority for sevas.

**Special Poojas, Sevas and Their Charges**

Special sevas include Maha Abhisheka, Rudrabhisheka, and homams. Rates (approximate):
Rudrabhisheka: Rs. 500–1,000.
Special Abhisheka (group): Rs. 1,000+.
Annadana sponsorship: Variable.
Contact temple office for current rates and booking.

**Festivals**

Annual Rathotsava (Car Festival): Major event during Sankranti/Uttarayan (January), with grand chariot procession attracting thousands.
Kere Habba/Utsava: Deity procession around the temple pond.

**Other key festivals**:
Maha Shivaratri (special abhishekas), Karthika month rituals, and local observances tied to Mahabharata legends.

**Facilities for Devotees Such as Accommodation etc.**

Basic amenities: Free parking, prasadam counters, annadana (free/simple meals often available).
No dedicated temple guest houses mentioned; devotees use local lodges.
Clean rest areas and pond for rituals.

**Donation Info, Bank Acct Numbers etc.**

Donations support maintenance and annadana. Offer at hundi or office. For bank transfers, contact temple directly (phone/email) for current details, as no public account numbers are widely listed. Tax benefits may apply for eligible contributions.

**Nearby Temples**

Shrimath Anantheshwara Temple, Vittal (ancient, important for local community).
Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Manjunatha Temple (36 km).
Kukke Subrahmanya Temple (about 57 km).
Odiyoor Sri Gurudevadatta Samsthanam (nearby).

**Nearby Places of Tourist Interest**

Kalenjimale Forest (dense greenery, sites linked to Bakasura legend).
Vittal Palace (historical Domba Heggade residence on 10-acre land with stone carvings).
Alike Educational Institutions (Sai Baba-related, 7 km).
Western Ghats foothills for nature walks.

**Nearby Budget Hotels**

Vittal has basic lodges; options in Puttur/Mangalore for more comfort (Rs. 800–2,000/night):
Local lodges in Vittal town (Rs. 500–1,000; basic rooms).

Hotels in Puttur (14 km): Options like Hotel Dwara, budget stays.

Recommend checking Booking.com or local inquiries for current availability.

**Any Other Info**

**Dress code**: Traditional attire recommended.

**Unique offering**: Previous day's rice prasadam is auspicious.

The temple complex is spacious and serene, ideal for peaceful darshan.

As of December 16, 2025, no major disruptions reported; check for festival crowds.

🙏 Jai Panchalingeshwara! May Lord Shiva bless you with strength and protection.

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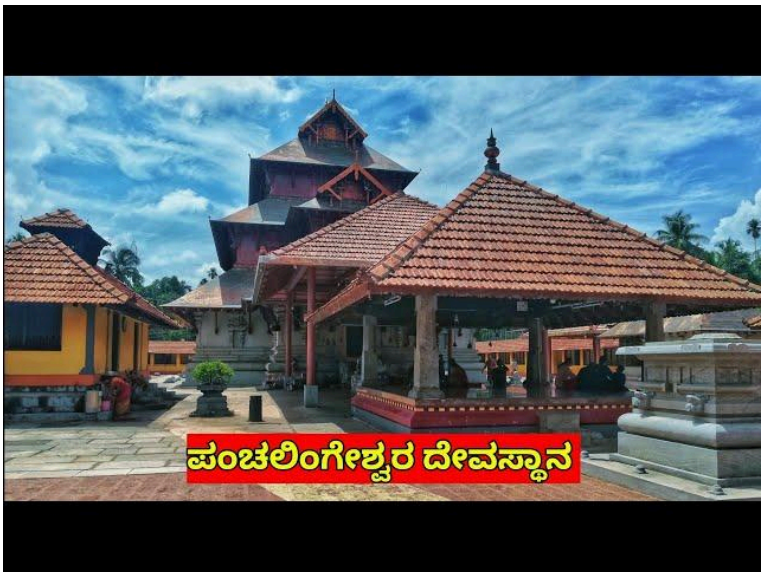
**Photos**



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**YouTube Videos**

**Panchalingeshwara Temple, Vittal (6.3 min):**

**https://youtu.be/8SjbdVDkoWo?si=ZkdaXShFXaPFMTqP**

**Vittal Sri Panchalingeshwara Temple - documentary ( Malayalam, 12 min):**

**https://youtu.be/S4ZZSqBE2C4?si=S_HZBTvrbwUvaGku**

**Vittal Sri Panchalingeshwara Temple - shorts video:**

**https://youtu.be/d9PSmFOuWVA?si=l8YsUBNP4v4nW0om**

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**Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar**
**December 18, 2025**